



# INDIANA CHARTER SCHOOL BOARD

## PRESS RELEASE

**DATE:** October 17, 2014  
**SUBJECT:** Indiana Charter School Board Approves Excel Center South Bend  
**CONTACT:** Sarah Sullivan, [smsullivan@icsb.in.gov](mailto:smsullivan@icsb.in.gov)

### **Goodwill LEADS to open Excel Center high school in South Bend**

The Indiana Charter School Board ("ICSB") approved the application for the Excel Center South Bend charter school at its Board meeting on Tuesday, October 14, 2014.

The Excel Center South Bend, governed by Goodwill LEADS, Inc., will provide adults with the opportunity and support to earn a high school diploma with dual credit or industry certifications. The Excel Center will enable graduates to pursue post-secondary education or career paths in growing sectors of the local economy.

"Goodwill LEADS is excited to have the opportunity to open the Excel Center in South Bend. We understand the importance of a good, solid education for individuals who are looking to reach their goals and provide for themselves and their families," said Debie Coble, board member of Goodwill LEADS and president and CEO of Goodwill Industries of Michiana. "Not only will individuals have the opportunity to return to school and obtain a diploma, but they can demonstrate the importance of education for their children."

The school, projected to open in the fall of 2015, will serve up to 350 students in grades 9-12 at full capacity and will be operated by Goodwill Education Initiatives and INIschools. The school will offer a flexible structure and supportive relationships to help students manage work, life, and family concerns as they achieve their educational goals.

"Goodwill Education Initiatives is thrilled to support Goodwill LEADS, Inc. as it opens the first Excel Center in Indiana outside of the central part of the state," said Scott Bess, chief operating officer of Goodwill Education Initiatives and senior vice president of Education at Goodwill Industries of Central Indiana. "Our experience with the nine Excel Centers in Central Indiana that we operate has shown that adults who have previously interrupted their high school experience welcome the opportunity to complete their high school diploma and will take advantage of post-secondary opportunities that enable them to become economically self-sufficient."

To date, the ICSB has conducted seven application cycles and has approved applications received from 12 different organizers. During each application cycle, charter school applicants must submit a letter of intent followed by an application detailing academic, operating, and financial plans. Each proposal undergoes a thorough analysis that includes external and internal reviews. In-person interviews are conducted with each applicant group, followed by public hearings around the state to allow local community members to share their perspectives on each proposed school. Charter school application decisions are made by ICSB voting members in a public meeting that is streamed live on the internet. The approved Goodwill LEADS, Inc. application is available on the [ICSB web site](http://www.in.gov/icsb).

### *About the ICSB*

The Indiana Charter School Board is an independent statewide charter school authorizing agency. The ICSB's mission is to authorize and hold accountable a portfolio of high-performing charter schools in which students achieve high levels of growth and graduate prepared for college and careers. Each school authorized by the ICSB is subject to a transparent and outcomes-oriented accountability system. Currently, ICSB-authorized schools are serving over 2,000 Indiana students. To learn more about upcoming board meetings, application cycles, and charter schools authorized by the ICSB, visit the ICSB website at [www.in.gov/icsb](http://www.in.gov/icsb).

